

Current FACts

FAC News to Use

December 11, 2014

FAC Spotlight: COT's Tommy Case: Fiddler and Violinmaker

Combining Artistry and Science

Always interested in music, especially traditional string band music, Tommy Case decided to take up fiddling at age 40. To this day he contends he can't read music, but then neither did many fiddle players from years past. Of course, playing led to buying violins, which turned into a collection of instruments gathered from auctions, estates sales and flea markets.

Over the years Case has gone to numerous Bluegrass and Traditional String Band Music Festivals in Kentucky and West Virginia where he'd run into all sorts of people, from classically trained musicians to those who just wanted to play music to those who were interested in the instruments themselves.

According to Case, Kentucky's traditional music heritage is inclusive with everyone playing the same tune together and everyone is eager to share their expertise, style, knowledge...just because of

their love of the music and their desire to see the music and instruments survive.



Pochette or "pocket" violin Case made in 2010. It is small and was easier to travel with.

"I've had the great fortune of meeting some really talented musicians and even taking lessons from them," said Case.

In 1987 Case began taking fiddle lessons from Wanda Barnett of the New Coon

Creek Girls and Raymond McClain with the McClain Family Band. Around that same time he began collecting old violins and other stringed instruments.

"When I'd go to estate sales or auctions somehow I'd always end up



Front, back & scroll view of violin made in 2013 under apprenticeship with Art Mize.

That led him to seek out luthiers in the region and work with them to learn hands-on how to do repairs and restoration. One of his early mentors was Bill Huckaby, a retired General Electric engineer who lived in the Peaks Mill area of Franklin County. In 2004, Case was one of 3 or 4 apprentices that Huckaby took on.



"Bill instructed me step-by-step on constructing two brand new violins and then he continued consulting/critiquing my work on subsequent violins until his death in 2009."



In all, Case has made 14 violins from start to finish and apprenticed in 2011 with Art Mize through an Arts Council grant. Art is a well-renowned luthier in Lexington who services instruments in Kentucky and surrounding states.

With Mize, Tommy honed in on selecting the raw wood, the mould design and refining the aesthetic features such as the *f*-hole, the edging of the front and back plates, and varnish technique.

"Making a violin can test your patience and perseverance," said Case. "However, it is also calming and so wonderful to see how each stroke of the chisel starts shaping a piece of wood into a musical instrument."

"And, finally, the best part is getting to play the instrument, whether its every other week taking lessons or playing with others at festivals or house parties."

Tommy started in state government in 1971 as a research analyst for CHFS. Shortly thereafter, he took on IT duties and in 1980 joined the precursor to COT. He retired and now works on contract for COT, working on the **Next Generation Information Highway Initiative**—a new statewide fiber optic network.

Fun Fact

Did you know...

...most violins are made from maple and spruce wood also known as tone wood? Most of the tone wood used in the US comes from Canada or Europe and grows in mountainous regions with a cold climate where the trees grow very slowly.



You're Invited!

Governor Steve Beshear
and
First Lady Jane Beshear
cordially invite you to join them for the

State Employee Open House

Wednesday, December 17, 2014
2:00-4:00 p.m.

The Governor's Mansion
704 Capitol Avenue
Frankfort, Kentucky



Check out
HR News
on Page 3.

Guests are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to benefit those in need.

*Guests will have the opportunity to send Christmas greetings to active and deployed service men and women through the **Holiday Mail for Heroes** program, sponsored by the Franklin County Chapter of the American Red Cross.*

CONGRATULATIONS !!!

FAC Employees' Daughters Shine In Miss Franklin County High School Pageant

Three of the top five finalists for the MFCHSP were daughters of Finance Cabinet employees. Congratulations to all three young women! We know their parents are proud!

Sydney Hendrix (2nd from left) was 1st runner up, Miss Scholarship and Miss Leadership. She's the daughter of Doug (FAC deputy general counsel) and Laura Hendrix.

Mea Graham (2nd from right) was 2nd runner up, Miss Talent and Miss Interview. Her parents are Doug and Joan Graham (FAC procurement).

Lauren Kiser (far right) was 4th runner up and tied for Miss Poise. She is the daughter of Brian (FAC Office of Broadband) and Joy Kiser

Alexis Mitchell is the overall winner and crowned Miss FCHS 2014). Third runner up was Shelby Brown (also tied for Miss Poise).



Shop Small. Shop Local. Make a big impact.

This is the first installment of a periodic feature on Finance employees who have outside businesses



Talk about recycle and repurpose... **A Shot Of Jo** was founded in 2014 after a visit to a shooting range with a friend. Upon looking at empty shell casings, **Jo Ann Smith with COT**, wondered where all those empty shell casings go. Eying a pair of earrings at checkout her idea was born. Always one for "bling" and accessories, Jo Ann started turning empty shell casings into fashionable jewelry.



Her creations are original, unique, hand-crafted pieces. From casual to sport, you can find the exact piece to fit your lifestyle, wardrobe and collection. She also can create custom designs just for you! All chains are sterling silver.

Check out ashotofojo.com, twitter.com/ashotofojo or facebook.com/ashotofojo. Contact Jo Ann via social media or from her contact web page. Designs on display Dec. 13 & 14 at S&D shooting range.

Correction...



Franklin County's Relay for Life is **June 13, 2015**, not June 15. For more information

on volunteering, contact Kelsey Lewis at the American Cancer Society offices at 859-260-8285 or Kelsey.lewis@cancer.org. You can also contact Margaret Puckett, Finance Facilities, as well.



Franklin County Relay For Life, Grand Marshall for Frankfort Jaycee's Christmas Parade, Dec. 6.

W2 Information: Is your address correct in KHRIS?

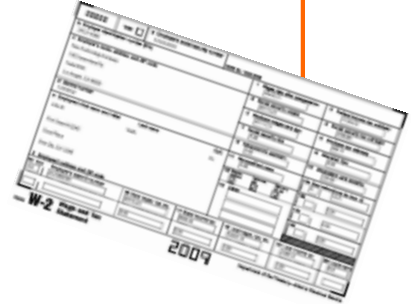
The Personnel Cabinet will soon be sending out 2014 W2 statements. To ensure you receive your W2, please make sure that your current address is listed correctly in the state personnel system (KHRIS). It's easy for all employees to check and revise their information in KHRIS by using the Employee Self Service (ESS).

Or you can call or email the Finance Cabinet's Division of Human Resources.
Call (502) 564-7233 or email the following individuals based on where you work:

StacyM.Perry@ky.gov (Facilities and Support Services; Department of Revenue)

Kim.Mitchell@ky.gov (COT)

Deniese.Pyles@ky.gov (Finance Cabinet and attached agencies)



New Employees & Performance Evaluation Orientation

A reminder to all newly eligible employees able to participate in the evaluation system: You must complete the online Employee Performance Evaluation Orientation prior to January 1 of your initial performance evaluation period, as required in 101 KAR 2:180, section 1(9). In addition to the online course, a printable version is available for employees who do not have computer access. Upon completion of the course, employees are required to submit an Employee Acknowledgement Form through their evaluator to their agency evaluation liaison, Jackie Flynt. She is in Room 188, Capitol Annex, 702 Capital Avenue, Frankfort 40601.



To access the course, [click here](#) or the link below. The course may take a few moments to load once you click on the link, so please be patient. Thank you for your cooperation and dedication to the employee performance evaluation process..

<https://personnel.ky.gov/Pages/learning-PerfEval-EE.aspx>



Timesheet Information for State Employee Holiday Open House

If you attend the open house at the Governor's Mansion on Dec. 17, you need to record this time (up to 2 hours) as Event Leave on your timesheet. In ETS, record leave hours in the start and end areas of "Hours Used/Earned", then enter the hours used under "Normal Leave Hours Taken" in the "EVNT" coded area. Please note within the reason section that the time was related to the mansion open house.

Note to managers of COT employees: Contact Carrie Cotew to request that the EVNT task be made available within PMIS for that date. For questions or concerns call 502-564-7233 or email Sandy.bain@ky.gov or Tina.perry@ky.gov.



Last Paycheck for 2014 to be Issued Dec. 23

In keeping with the tradition of early distribution of pay prior to the Christmas holidays, the final paycheck for December will be issued on Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2014. Therefore, timesheets must be submitted no later than noon on Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2014. Please note that pay will not be issued again until Jan. 15, 2015.

Timesheets for the Dec. 16-31, 2014 period must be submitted by noon on Monday, Jan. 5, 2015.

Please contact the Division of Human Resources at 502-564-7233 with questions.

